Government's decision thereon, an interim reassessment of capacities of 15 urea units has already been carried out *w.e.f.* 1.4.2000, which would result in a saving of Rs. 450 crore per annum approximately.

Use of Fertilizers By Small Farmers

† 3016. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the small farmers are unable to use adequate fertilizers in their crops because the same have become costly;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to take any steps to make the fertilizers available at lower prices to such farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The prices of fertilizers like Urea, Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Murate of Potash (MoP) and Complex fertilizers were last increased in Budget 2000-2001. The total impact of the fertilizer price increase effected in Budget 2000-2001, on the cost of cultivation was estimated to be less than 1.5%. The policy of the Government is to ensure adequate supply of quality fertilizers to farmers at reasonable prices. The Government fixes the farm gate price of urea which is the only controlled fertilizer and indicates Maximum Retail Price (MRP) in respect of decontrolled fertilizers like DAP, MoP, Complex fertilizers. The MRPs in respect of Single Super Phosphate (SSP) are indicated by respective State Governments. To enable the sale of these fertilizers to fanners at reasonable prices, the Government pays large amount of subsidy/ concession to maintain the price even at the present level. The benefit of subsidized fertilizer prices is available to all farmers including small farmers.

† Originai notice of the question was received in Hindi.